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ST. JOHNS REVIEW

Devoted to the interests of the Peninsula, the Manufacturing Center of the Northwest

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GET IN THE HABIT

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The Sewer Meeting

A goodly sprinkling of interested property owners gathered at the city hall last Friday night to discuss the sewer situation so far as sewer district No. 2 (Maple street) is concerned. The object of the meeting was to organize a defensive association and devise ways and means of coping with the situation. Socialist Perrine opened the meeting with a few stirring remarks, telling of the discrepancies between the work actually done and what the specifications called for. His remarks were practically a reiteration of former statements made by him and which have been printed in the Review at different times. At the conclusion of his introductory address, he stated that the election of officials would be next in order. Dr. McChesney immediately placed J. S. Downey's name in nomination, and as no other suggestions were made, he was elected unanimously. Mr. Downey then took the floor and gave a rousing speech in which he smote hard and often all who had anything to do with the sewer in the way of approval, from the time the contract was let to the present time. He even diverged from his subject and gave his views on the action of M. W. Garton in refusing to pay for his street improvement over the amount required by charter, which gave him a loop hole to crawl out and place the balance of the burden upon the other property owners who had their own assessments to pay for. He said it was not the purpose of the property owners to repudiate any obligation in regard to the sewer, but they did want just what they had agreed to pay for. He stated that the council would have held the sewer acceptance up if it wasn't for the fact that the local bondsmen had backed the contractor, so that the local bondsmen were the cause of the sewer's acceptance. He wound up his discourse by stating that there was not a catch basin on Hayes street, and that he was heartily in favor of resisting payment until the sewer was made satisfactory. Mr. Perrine then called for nominations for secretary and treasurer, and Paschal Hill and W. S. Laughters were unanimously elected to these offices respectively.

Dr. McChesney was called upon for a speech and responded with a few pointed remarks, in which he stated that steps should be taken to prevent the mayor from signing the sewer warrants.

Paschal Hill stated that he had no faith in the contractor's word and that the work was decidedly unsatisfactory. He also told of several instances where the specifications had not been complied with. An invitation was then extended for all property owners to sign a remonstrance and resistance against payment of the sewer in its present shape. Property owners representing more than 70 lots responded. There are about 1200 lots affected by the Maple street sewer, and it is proposed to secure as many of these as possible and enroll them against payment.

It was decided to secure the services of Senator W. C. Fulton as legal advisor and take the matter into the courts if necessary. Dr. McChesney, J. S. Downey and J. S. Laughters were elected unanimously as a committee to arrange in regard to securing an attorney, giving Senator Fulton the preference. After several other orations delivered by Messrs. Downey, Perrine, Laughters and one or two others, the meeting adjourned to Wednesday evening, July 5th.

Building Permits

No. 71—To Peter Linger to erect a dwelling on Bank street between Oregonian and Midway avenues; cost \$250.

No. 72—To Jos. Basie to erect a dwelling on Scott avenue between Charleston and John streets; cost \$1000.

No. 73—To Adam Heinrich to erect dwelling on Astor street between Bank street and Oregonian avenue; cost \$700.

No. 74—To Katie Holcomb to erect a dwelling on Fillmore street between Catlin and Trumbull; cost \$500.

No. 75—To Thos. Burckles to erect dwelling on Edison street between New York and Chicago streets; cost \$350.

Stings or bites of insects that are followed by swellings, pain or itching should be treated promptly as they are poisonous. BALLARD'S SNOW LINIMENT counteracts the poison. It is both antiseptic and healing. Price 25c, 50c and \$1 per bottle. Sold by the St. Johns Pharmacy.

Annexation Decision

Judge Gatens of the circuit court gave a decision in favor of annexation last Saturday morning from a sentimental standpoint, but confessed that he did not know concerning the legality of the election. Therefore, he voluntarily stayed all proceedings until the supreme court could pass upon it. As it was incumbent upon him to render a decision of some sort, he did so partially, referring the chief point in the contention to higher authority. It was really a better decision than the anti had hoped for, and their attorney is especially pleased with it. Because it was shown that a majority of 32 votes was recorded in favor of annexation, and because a decision in favor of the anti would jeopardize the proceedings by which other territory had been annexed to Portland recently, to say nothing of his natural desire to please the people of Portland, Judge rendered a decision favorable to the annexers. The anti believe he did the very best he could according to his lights and have no fault to find. On the contrary they admire the stand he has taken in the matter. He proved that he wanted to do right as far as he could, and his frankness in confessing that he did not know regarding the legality of the contention is proof that he is conscientious and honest. The case was conducted in a most peaceful and friendly manner. Both of the opposing attorneys were most considerate of each other and of the witnesses. No badgering or bulldozing methods were attempted. The plea put up by Attorney Geo. J. Perkins for the anti was the most brilliant and the most learned that has been heard in court from so young an attorney in a long while. Even his opponents expressed admiration for the keenness of his perception and knowledge of law. Senator Fulton also looked after his clients' interests in his usual good form. It is doubtful if there are any better lawyers in Oregon than Mr. Fulton.

Judge Gatens said the supreme court is the only place where the technicalities can be determined, and should he not stay the proceedings to annex considerable confusion would result. The principal question involved in this case is whether or not the adoption of Article II, Section 2 of the constitution, passed in 1906, giving the cities and towns exclusive authority to amend and repeal their charters, does not ipso facto nullify that portion of the Portland charter passed by the legislature in 1903 giving authority to council to consent to annexation of territory to the city of Portland, upon the approval of the voters in the territory desired to be annexed.

It will thus be seen that the position is a grave one—graver and more complicated than many have imagined. It seems very plain that the constitutional amendment of 1906 was passed for the very purpose of defeating any attempt to consolidate without an expression of the people of both corporations. If this is not so it is difficult to understand why it was ever passed. Its language is very plain—so plain, in fact, that Judge Gatens, with his conscientious scruples, would not disregard it. That he is also shrewd is shown by his shifting the burden to the supreme court, making his position impregnable and himself solid with the people of Portland and a "majority" in St. Johns. A finished politician could not have been more tactful.

When a decision will be rendered by the supreme court no man can foretell. The least that can be hoped for, we understand, is October. Since haste is not imperative, it may take a year. In the meantime the city of St. Johns will continue to do business at the same old stand.

Wants to Know

Editor Review: Will you kindly give the vote of council on the letting of the contract of the Maple street sewer. There is quite a deal of discussion over this matter, and while this can easily be ascertained by visiting the city hall, yet if the vote was published in the Review all could learn without investigating individually. CITIZEN.

The following is the vote as recorded in the minutes of the meeting when the contract was let to Mr. Seybold: J. E. Hiller, yes; W. W. Windle, yes; C. L. Johnson, yes; S. C. Cook, yes; J. S. Downey, yes; A. W. Davis, yes; S. L. Dobie, yes—all yes.

Second hand fruit jars 50c per dozen, quarts and half gallons.—H. F. Clark Furniture Co.

Majority Discussed

Editor Review: Lately I have heard so much about the "majority" vote on annexation that I desire to express my views. Half a dozen or more individuals have remarked to me: "Why don't you lay down and be a good dog now, you were whipped; why don't you discontinue trying to frustrate a majority vote?" The chief reason is because I know and many others know how that majority vote was secured. I believe in majority rule in most ordinary cases, but not in all. This annexation majority was secured by misrepresentation and distortion of facts. It was secured from non-property owners and renters, who were persuaded that their water bill would be reduced. No large property owner, unless he had a spite to work out or axe to grind, favored annexation. The business men almost unanimously were bitterly opposed to annexation, as were the professional men. The foreign element and non-property owners were principally in favor of annexation. Think you, should a majority secured from such a source be acceded to without a murmur? Particularly when, if the result should prove disastrous to the entire community (as this likely will), there can be no remedy; for once in there will be no getting out no matter how calamitous may be the result to St. Johns. The majority of those whom annexation would vitally affect bitterly opposed it. Show me a large property owner who was in favor of annexation and I will show you a defeated and disappointed office seeker. These same individuals who are continually howling to stick to the majority vote are now seeking to override the majority vote of the city council when it voted to accept a sewer system. Why do they not stick to a majority vote? The boot is on the other foot. It may be that in both instances the majority is at fault; and when a majority is at fault it should be resisted. Again, these parties who favor annexation state that if the vote is discarded on a technicality it would work a hardship on other territory that has been annexed to Portland in recent years. What I cannot for the life of me see, is how another wrong is going to make a right. If other territory was taken into Portland unlawfully it is no reason that St. Johns should annex by the same token. If the higher courts decide that the election was lawful and just I will be a "good dog." But until that time I reserve my right to "kick." I hate to "butt in" on this proposition at this late day, but sometimes silence ceases to be a virtue. I thank you in advance for giving me space. OLD SUBSCRIBER.

A Reminiscence

In my mail today was a copy of the Pioneer Press of St. Paul, Minn., of June 18, 1911, telling that on June 22, which is now past, that the Old Minnesota 1st volunteers would hold a reunion and the scenes would be enacted of 50 years ago—the trip to the boat landing, the embarking for the South. A great time was expected and how I wish I could have been there and I have been thinking how I missed the stirring events which so fittingly they are to celebrate in this 50th anniversary, so here is my story of it. It seems there was some mistake about the date of leaving St. Paul 50 years ago. At any rate on June 22, 1861 four of our neighbor young folks, my sister and myself started from our homes in a lumber wagon and a span of farm horses, chairs for seats, lunch and horse-feed, to ride 35 miles to see our neighbor boy and brother start for the South from St. Paul. We understood they were to start June 23, and we arrived two hours after the boat had started. Talk about disappointment, we two girls of 14 and 16 thought our cup was full to overflowing. We were so tired from our long ride; but we can stand a good deal of such in a long life, and some of it at war time at that. My brother was spared to return and I hope was at the reunion. The neighbor boy was taken prisoner in the first battle of Bull Run; was in one of those tobacco warehouses in Richmond, Va. but was finally returned home and now has joined the ranks on the other side. I do hope I may be able to attend some of the reunions on the other shore too, some day where disappointment and war cannot come and we will forget the sad days of long ago—where is meeting but no parting.—Mrs. H. C. McCollum.

"The Good Die Young"

The old saying seemed to be verified on Sunday morning last, when the guileless spirit of Arthur Sydney, a sweet little boy twenty-five months old, son of Mr. W. H. Haskin, winged its way to its eternal home. Playing with other little ones late in the afternoon on Friday, he went to his bed with nothing apparently ailing him except a slight restlessness through the night. Toward morning this was followed by convulsions, then paralysis and hemorrhage of the brain. He suffered intensely all day Saturday and Sunday night, and all that medical skill, the attention of loving parents and kind friends could do to relieve his suffering was done; but it was all in vain, for he fell into the "sleep that knows no waking" at 9 o'clock Sunday morning.

Little Arthur was a lovable child. Possessed of a sweet and quiet disposition, a calm and tender nature, to know him was to love him. Neighbors who watched him at play noticed that when a playmate wanted anything that he owned he always gave it to him without a murmur. He seemed to be entirely unselfish.

He was buried in the Columbia cemetery Monday afternoon. As he lay in his little casket, there was beautifully decorated with cut flowers, his little hands folded on his sinless breast, he seemed to be even more beautiful in death than in life. He appeared already plumed for his heavenly home. His pall bearers were four little boys, Harry Kind, James Fletcher, Donald Rose and Charles Snyder. As the procession started for the graveyard there was scarcely a dry eye in the house. Old and young, boys and girls wept for the little one whom they all knew and loved so well. Everyone realized that the sinless soul was "safe in the arms of Jesus," for did not the Savior say: "Suffer little children to come unto me and forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven?" J. H. F.

The Engineer's Theory

Following is the city engineer's version of the Maple street sewer proposition: That the specifications were followed as closely as need be to make a good sewer; that the specifications are a set type to be followed where all conditions are favorable; that Portland and other cities allow the same departure in sandy soil; that the contractor had a permit from the engineer to tunnel; that the sewer contract provides for maintenance bond to remove surplus dirt, etc., after the ground has thoroughly settled; that heavy timbers broke twice in succession by crushing in of sand from along the sides when an attempt was made to dig a long trench; that on account of the shifting sand it was impossible, or extremely hazardous, to trench all the way; that in Oregon City where a trench is being dug, the excavation is through rock and clay; that the engineer's acceptances are on printed blanks, and mean that the specifications were followed, conditions of soil considered, to the satisfaction of the engineer; that the sewer on the whole is fully as good as the average sewer, if not better.

Had a Good Time

A crowd of young people from the Evangelical church spent the Fourth at Oswego lake, and all had a glorious good time. Leaving Portland at 11:30 a. m. we arrived at the lake where boats were awaiting us, in which we proceeded to the head waters, where a cool, shady place was found to spread the dinner provided by the wives and best girls.

Words fail to describe the dinner; it was simply beyond description. Coffee was made and served by our guide and royal chef, Arthur L. Clark, which was delicious. After dinner the hours were spent in boat riding, target shooting and taking pictures. About 7 o'clock supper was served, by the camp fire, after which we started on the return trip, singing and having a good time.

Our only wish was that the day had been longer, and July 4, 1911, shall register in our log-book as one of the most enjoyable holidays ever spent in our lives.

One of the Bunch.

For summer diarrhoea in children always give Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy and castor oil and a speedy cure is certain. For sale by all dealers.

Council Proceedings

As Tuesday was the Fourth, and incidentally Mayor Couch's birthday, council meeting was transferred to Wednesday evening, when all members reported for duty. S. C. Cook injected a protest against the condition of part of Fessenden street, claiming that there was too much dirt left on the cross walks and divers other places along the line. John Peterson explained that when the trolley line people finished their work this would be taken care of.

R. W. McKeon asked why competitive bids were not provided for in the hard surfacing of Philadelphia street. He thought the property owners are not getting a fair deal unless this be done. Soc. Perrine stated that he understood that the Bitulithic company was willing to sell their product to any contractor, thus affording competition. Mayor Couch said that the engineer had based his estimate on the lowest price the Bitulithic company offered when it was competing on the Jersey street hard surface—\$1.85 per yard—and that he believed the majority of the property owners wanted Bitulithic.

A communication from C. W. Fulton stated that he had been retained by the sewer remonstrators, that the sewer was wholly unfit for use in its present condition, and urged the city to refuse to pay for it until satisfactory. Ordered filed by the mayor.

Ald. Hill stated that the steam roller has fallen through the sewer on North Jersey twice, that the remonstrators had gotten the city "skinned," and that progress had not yet gone too far to retract. Soc. Perrine also advised retraction and thought the best thing to do would be to secure a competent sewer man to investigate the sewer and ascertain where it needed to be remedied and how. Ald. Muck thought the sewer was a good one, that he had spent four days in looking it over, and it looked good to him. The mayor stated that the contractor had offered to arrange for a maintenance bond, but Soc. Perrine would have none of it; he wanted a good sewer, not the present one maintained. Ald. Bredeson said he was tired of the continual "rag chewing" and thought some parties were getting scared.

A bill from the water company for lowering the pipes on Fessenden street brought forth considerable discussion. Alderman Hill contended that the company was improving their system, and did not believe pipe was lowered on all the ground covered by the bill. Ald. Muck made a motion that the matter be referred to the city attorney for investigation. Alderman Hill amended the motion, that the bill be not allowed. Ald. Muck offered the only dissenting vote on the amendment.

Philadelphia street and a portion of the Fessenden street improvements were accepted on motions of Muck and Valentine respectively.

Alderman Bredeson stated that several alights had been out lately and thought the city was entitled to a rebate. The mayor stated that he would have the chief of police keep tabs and have the omission in light deducted from the bill. Socialist Perrine insisted that the engineer should regularly attend the council meetings for the purpose of imparting information in regard to street matters not understood by the dads. No action.

A resolution to improve Burlington street from Hayes to Philadelphia street was adopted on motion of Alderman Hill, the Westrumite company having declined to accept this small job.

The bid of Jacob Hahn, being the lowest of three submitted for the improvement of Philadelphia street from Hayes to Edison, he was awarded the contract on motion of Mr. Muck.

C. E. Wheelock received the contract for the improvement of Edison street, Fessenden to Burlington, on motion of Alderman Horsman.

An ordinance requiring indemnity bonds from contractors was passed on motion of Mr. Valentine, as was an ordinance accepting deed for strip of St. Johns avenue on motion of Mr. Muck.

The mayor stated that the ferry bonds would likely be taken over by the local banks, Morris Bros. having declined to take them because their Boston attorneys could not seem to understand Oregon law.

Mr. Bredeson insisted that the fountain be installed at the intersection of Philadelphia and Burlington streets. Some objection was raised on account of the fountain being a curb stone affair and that a more appropriate one should be erected on the site. On motion of

Still More "Sorrow"

Editor Review: I would explain the sarcasm of the first part of my letter in last week's issue which you do not seem to have understood. I aimed to show the ridiculous nature of your arguments in favor of competition and profits by applying those same arguments to the business of physical warfare from which competition and profits have already been eliminated. The business of warfare has been socialized, that is, made a matter of co-operation; and this is exactly what we want done with other industries. Any argument in the one case should apply with equal force in the other. Our fighting is done by a trained army each helping the other. Our work is done by a mob each trying to get the advantage of the others.

All the argument you put forth, and difficulties you imagine in the formation of an industrial army are answered in our co-operative military force. Each man of the same rank gets the same pay, yet he may earn promotion. But he cannot control a regiment to the extent that he may discharge the regular men and hire scabs at less than \$16 per month and pocket the difference. He can save while some other fellow squanders and enjoy the use of his money, but cannot invest his money in the business of warfare for profit from the blood of his comrades.

There are slavish conditions in the military force which we do not propose for the industrial army. A better illustration of such an army is to be found today on the isthmus of Panama where competition and profits have been eliminated. The government runs the railroads, hotels, restaurants, department stores, cold storage meat plants and even the theatres. And take notice, Mr. Editor, there is scarcely any money handed in connection with the whole job. With the government as sole employer and purveyor it is merely a matter of time checks and book-keeping. To be sure if a fellow wants to return to the barbarous conditions of the "state" he can draw his "aboriginal trinkets" of gold and silver.

The result of this government management is better pay for the workers and a far less cost of living through thousands of miles from the source of supply, and what was once a death trap has been made the most sanitary part of the American continent.

Democracy means the political power in the hands of the people. But what they will do with the king they have disposed has nothing to do with democracy. They have usually, at least lately been rather generous it seems to me. Socialism means the industrial power in the hands of the people. Just as they deal with the deposed industrial king no one has a better right to say than another. I have no doubt that it will be generous. They can afford to be generous when they are rid of their tyranny. As to giving them only a "chance to work for a living" you should add: "and a guarantee of their full product." What more than this would you really dare to ask? A chance to live without work would mean a greater chance for the average man to do double work, and get a mighty poor living.

As to the negroes of the South living in a socialistic state all these years I can only say that socialism as the Review understands it must certainly be a fearful and a wonderful theory. For while here that contentment of the negro is made the basis of socialism, a little farther along it is envy that is its basis. I recommend that for a definition of socialism you take the dictionary or encyclopedia rather than the comic papers. The socialist envies no man any part of his full product and is not content with less for himself. A. W. Vincent.

If the \$16 per month reward for services were deducted from the soldiers' pay, the doctor might be partially right about the army life being a socialistic state. Socialism only promises enough to eat and wear, if we understand it aright. If army life is socialism glorified, isn't it strange that more socialists do not join the army. Our good friend Perrine says the woods are full of socialists, yet a \$16 bait over and above idealistic conditions hardly induces them to join. It is strange that it requires greatest effort on the part of the government to recruit its army ranks, as is also the fact that many deserters are army socialists in the standing army. It would be a safe wager that a fair proportion of them may be found among the deserters. Why? Because it becomes distasteful to them. They know that a good soldier receives only a few cents more than the most awkward one; they know that their chance of promotion is most remote; they know that "influence" has more to do with promotion than honest effort. The more they work for their own pay, the more they are full of socialistic conditions in which the country now exists—even "scabs" will not work for \$16 per month and "their keep."

They can make more out of the army than in it. To work for your food and clothes! Why, even life in the penitentiary, doctor, loses half its horror in comparison. The desire for gain is paramount in the human breast, and if in the distribution of the fat of the land (if such a thing as the socialist regime is ever visited upon this country) all men should share alike, it would not be a generation until there would be as marked difference in the classes as now. And it is right; for why should the ignorant, indolent, shiftless, profitless receive the same as the intelligent, active, energetic and frugal worker?

In regard to the government control in the isthmus of Panama, many people have wondered why it is giving the government about three times as much Mr. Hill, however, that the street committee be empowered to erect same at once, all voted yes.

The 25th day of July was set as the time for hearing of viewers' reports on Crawford and Bradford streets.

Mr. Bredeson argued that the Star Sand & Gravel Co. should pay rental for the use of Charleston street. No action.

On motion of Mr. Perrine the attorney was ordered to file a disclaimer in regard to the Willamette boulevard suit.

Adjourned Meeting

All members were present at the adjourned meeting of the city council last Thursday evening. Among the matters taken up and disposed of was a petition for the improvement of South Ivanhoe from Polk to Ida. Resolution adopted, as was also a resolution for the improvement of South Jersey from Buchanan to Ida.

A remonstrance against the improvement of Decatur street from Salem to Richmond was honored and proceedings stayed.

A remonstrance against the opening of Decatur street between Richmond and Tyler was ordered filed until the viewers had submitted their report.

On motion of Alderman Bredeson a spark arrester for the steam roller was ordered installed.

A resolution to improve Tioga street from Fessenden to Willis Boulevard was adopted, as was also a resolution to improve Charleston street from Hayes to Olympia at a cost of over \$12,000.

A summons requiring the city to appear as defendant in determining the width of Willamette boulevard by R. E. Thurmond and wife was referred to the city attorney.

to complete the canal as was first estimated. The doctor's illustration may offer a partial solution. The government must have laborers and the pay and environments are made such that they can be secured. Possibly in this instance the government is furnishing the living for the workmen at less than cost and you and I are footing the bills, for when it comes to the final reckoning, you and I and our kind are "Uncle Sam" who pays for everything on the job. The government in the past has failed to make the postal service self-supporting by many millions of dollars. The government has proven a poor business manager. The various printing offices throughout the country feel the weight of the government's attempt to stamp out competition. It furnishes envelopes stamped and printed at a less price than we can buy the plain envelopes and the stamps for separately. It is well known trusts at various times adopt the same tactics when they want to squeeze out independent competition. Personally we know of company stores in mining towns in Pennsylvania crushing out all competition by forcing the miners to deal at the company store. Yet under this socialistic regime in the mining towns the miners were continually cursing the store. Of course the prices were high, but miners had something coming after their store bills had been deducted. Many of them were socialists, too, yet they were dissatisfied. Not because they did not get enough to eat and wear, but because there was no competition. Remove the high price paid for labor on the canal and you remove the laborers in spite of socialistic conditions.

The doctor draws a wrong conclusion from our remarks last week. The dulled animal contentment of the negroes was given as what might be expected to result from a practice of socialism. The basis of socialism is envy; the result, apathy, lack of energy and unprogressiveness. If the doctor thinks we have drawn our conclusions from comic papers, rather than to pore over dictionaries and encyclopedias, we can give questions that it is doubtful if the books will answer. A direct answer would be most pleasing and less complicated:

Isn't it a fact that socialism proposes to render the wealth of the money men valueless?

Doesn't socialism propose to level down and not level up?

Under socialism could a man accumulate scrip or beans or whatever medium of exchange might be in vogue? Could one own enough ground to build a home? If so, except that the rich would be plundered, how would it differ from the present system? If not, would not a poor man be in the same boat he is today? The great howl is that he does not get a just proportion of what he earns, yet if he is able bodied and willing to work he is sure of a living and a good one, and if frugal can earn his own house and lot. What more can socialism offer, unless it is a better opportunity to loaf.

Library Notes

The number of books circulating during the month of June was 2721, an increase of 247 over the May circulation.

The Portland Library Association has recently furnished a framed picture for the reading room. It is one of George's representations of an old world village street. Miss Isom, head librarian, has also presented the reading room with a fine, unframed picture of Sir Francis Drake's capture of Don Pedro's ship of the Spanish Armada. This is now posted with a list of books which give the story of the encounter.

McClure's magazine for July has an interesting article on the Initiative, Referendum and Recall in Oregon, and how they got it, by Burton J. Hendricks. Ask for it at the reading room.

LIBRARIAN.

Best of common brick for sale at the new St. Johns, Brickyard, corner of Myers and Thompson streets.—Brokaw Bros., props. 35